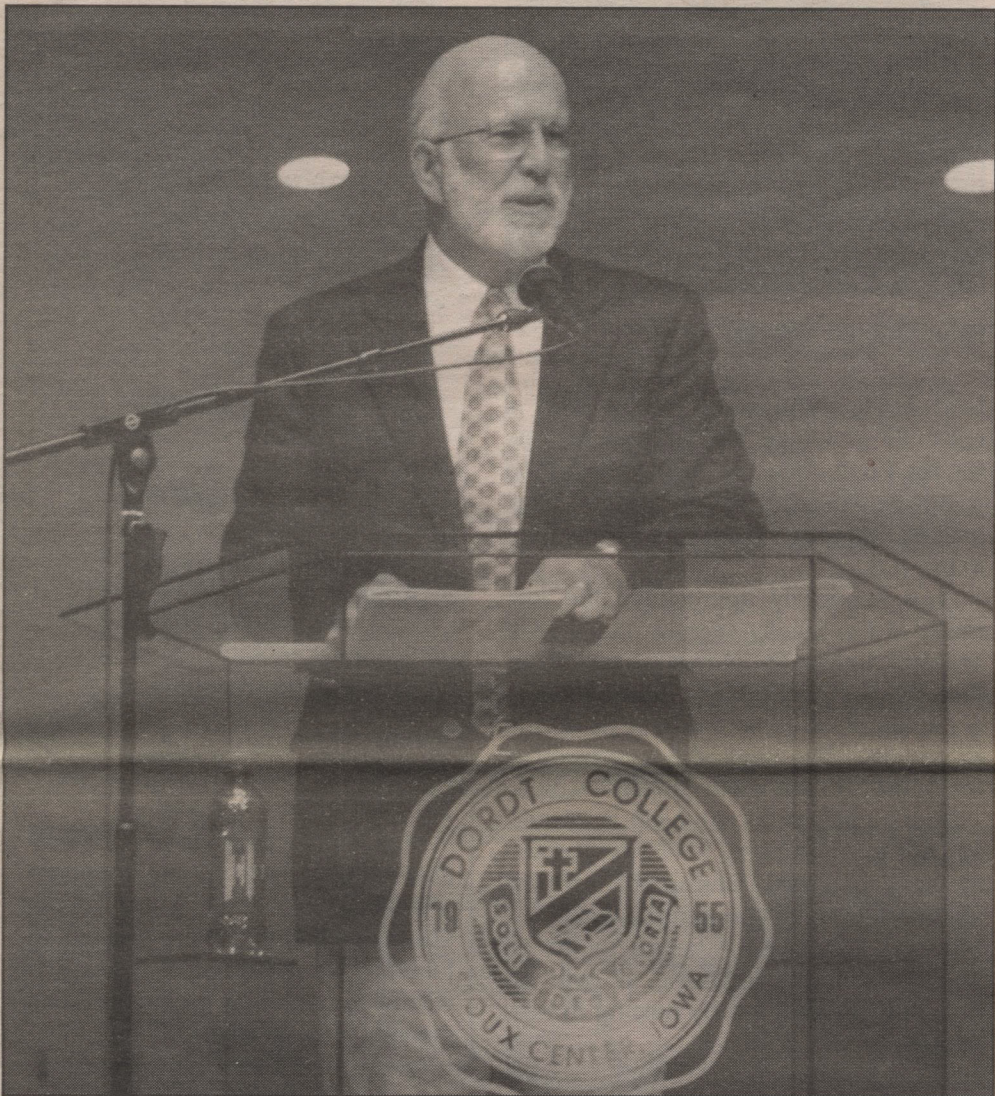


3 November 2006

Skillen promotes Reformed view



Elbert Bakker

James Skillen of the Center for Public Justice speaks in the B.J. Haan Auditorium Tuesday night for the annual Reformation Day lecture.

Jessica Braunchweig
Editor

While costume-clad tricker-treaters collected candy outside this past Tuesday night, Dordt ushered in a reformation celebration of its own inside the B.J. Haan. James Skillen, former Dordt professor, renowned author and president for the Center of Public Justice, brought forth a message that heralded no disguise—"globalization, poverty and Semper Reformanda." He was more than well-suited for the event, with his reformational perspective, thought-provoking insight and call to action that inevitably led to reflection on the first Reformation.

If any "CRC viewers" showed up in hopes of a "seasonal scare," they would be disappointed, receiving no shaking words. Rather, Skillen re-visited the well-known Reformed view, but emphasizing along with it the effects of global importance in our lives through a focus on world developments. His presentation of globalization reaffirmed a challenge to Christians to bring forth a call to reformation.

Skillen began by emphasizing that we must understand the context of globalization: a shrinking world. But this knowledge cannot be directed solely through economic or technological spheres: "economic growth doesn't indicate progress." The overall optimistic picture of globalization that is presented in these two spheres, "is happening mostly in elite

circles," thus leading to a disconnected people, world.

Skillen challenged us to recognize that "at the deepest level [of globalization] it's a matter of religion, however warped [our understandings of it] may be." The driving roots of religion go back to the cultural mandate in Genesis, where "no universities, governments or institutions existed in the garden" as opposed to a society today who has given into "secularism, cynicism, and suicide." Thus, Skillen showed how we've "lost all meaning in losing touch with the very God who gives life purpose."

Skillen challenged the audience to realize the many ways in which we find ourselves divided and how "our quest to develop the world is [actually] ecological carelessness—we fail to pay attention to the way God's creation is faltering under our waste/abuse in the environment." Thus, we're faced with both an economic and environmental problem. Skillen referenced Daniel Coman in questioning the cost of global chaos: "What's coming together at this point is scarcity of resources and acceleration of climate/change."

Skillen tied the intensification of globalization directly to "the tasks that are at hand, in bringing the whole of God's creation into service, [which] requires everyone—all of the generations around the world." Yet, there is tension within that task, especially due to the "one world visions that aren't harmoniously in . . .

See SKILLEN, pg.3

Modern-day Russia: friend or foe?

Joel Veldkamp
Staff Writer

The Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 seemed to mark the beginning of a new era for Russia and the United States. Many thought that with the fall of communism, the old adversaries might become allies. But dreams of an American-Russian partnership are being shaken by recent developments.

Since his election in 1999, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been moving his country further and further from democracy and closer to dictatorship. Under the leadership of this former KGB agent, Russia has become less free, less cooperative with America and more threatening towards its neighbors.

The most recent example: in early October, the tiny nation of Georgia, formerly a part of the Soviet Union, arrested four Russians and charged them with spying on its military. Russia responded by withdrawing its ambassador, imposing an economic blockade and beginning naval

war games off the Georgian coast. Some analysts believe Russia is planning an invasion.

On the home front, Putin has been gathering more and more power at the expense of his country's democracy. Putin's reelection in 2004 was criticized by European election observers, who claimed that the vote count was flawed and that media coverage was slanted in Putin's favor. Six months later, Putin used the terrorist attack on a school in Beslan, Russia as an excuse to end direct elections for regional governors and the national legislature.

Putin's government has acquired control over much of the news media in Russia. And journalists that aren't being managed by the state are being intimidated. A few weeks ago, a prominent anti-Putin journalist, Anna Politkovskaya, was murdered in her apartment building — on Putin's birthday. Her newspaper's deputy editor was murdered a few years earlier. Neither murder has been solved to date.

On the world scene, Russia under Pu-

tin has taken a consistently anti-American stance. In 2005, Russia sold \$700 million worth of surface-to-air missiles to Iran, America's biggest enemy in the Middle East. The same year, Russia successfully pressured Uzbekistan to close an American air base used for operations in Afghanistan. Now it is pressuring Kyrgyzstan to do the same.

Also last year, Russia and China conducted their first joint military exercise to demonstrate their ability to counter U.S. power.

Russia's constitution won't allow Putin to serve a third term, but Putin has made it clear that he'd like to keep his job, and some of his supporters have made petitions to amend the constitution to allow him to run again. In any case, Putin has promised that he will continue to "exert influence" in Russia after his term ends.

With ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and crises developing in Iran and North Korea, the United States isn't exactly in a position to challenge Russia. But if the current trends continue, we may be left with no other choice.

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A mind to learn; a heart to serve

Bridget Smith
Staff Writer

She fidgets with the hem of her blue jeans, slightly uncomfortable with all the attention, yet humbly sharing her stories from the heart, from her culture where self-focus is not the norm. She is Suur Debrah Yakubu, an international student from Benue State, Nigeria.

Twenty-one years old and in her second year at Dordt College, Suur is a dedicated pre-med student with a heart for God and a desire to serve others. Suur graduated from high school at 16 years old, going on to attend a university in Nigeria for four years.

Suur's dreams of attending med school in the U.S. led her to study pre-med here as well, thus increasing her chances of acceptance into a U.S. graduate school. With academic goals ahead and family and friends behind, Suur left home to live with her host parents in Chicago, now a beloved city and "second home." But Suur is not without relatives here—"the name Yakubu is all over the U.S."

And the name Yakubu is not unknown to Dordt either—years ago, Suur's father taught pottery here as a visiting teacher, inevitably leading his daughter to enjoy a more permanent "visit" of her own. In fact, Suur hasn't returned to Nigeria since she moved away, and she especially misses her best friend, her mother. Suur also left behind six siblings—two brothers and four sisters, the youngest being her ador-

able two-year old sister.

Though Suur inevitably misses parts of home, she says life in the U.S. is similar to life in Nigeria—even down to her brothers' favorite activity of playing computer and video games. Suur laughs at their idea of entertainment, which differs from her own love of reading books. She also enjoyed running track during high school but opted to focus on her studies instead. Though Suur misses the scent of Nigerian spices filling the air, the memory of it (literally) lingers with her authentic, "taste of home" cooking that sends an aroma down the halls of East Campus.

Suur's favorite memory in the U.S. is tied to tradition. On her 21st birthday, she received permission to court. She began courting the man she calls her fiancé, Daniel. In Nigeria, the term fiancé is used differently than in the U.S. The courtship is characterized by tradition and the couple must be seriously considering marriage.

When Suur arrives home, a ceremony will occur in which Daniel tells Suur's parents he loves her. He will then ask their permission for her hand in marriage. The ceremony is called the "Introduction." Afterwards, the couple is officially engaged.

Suur met Daniel while attending the university in Nigeria and they have talked extensively about marriage. "Plans seem to be changing pretty fast, so we might get married before I get into med school, or at most, the first year of med school.



Maggie Ehlert

Suur Debrah Yakubu

God willing," she says. Daniel, who is currently in Africa, has applied to Yale for his Ph.D. "We are believing in God to bring us together soon." Though Suur misses home, she highly values her time in the U.S.

Suur especially appreciates the intimacy of the faculty-student relationship at Dordt. In Nigeria, status is very important and a student would never address a professor or doctor without using the proper title. She says she is amazed at the humility of the white culture.

Suur's passion for studying is preparing her to more richly fulfill her passion for serving others. She spent the past summer in Zambia on a mission trip.

In the future, Suur hopes to go on medical missions, traveling all over Africa, serving the Lord by helping to heal people.

Baked potato wedges

Submitted by Josh Dykstra

8 medium unpeeled potatoes
1 t. salt
½ t. garlic powder
¼ c. parmesan cheese
¼ t. pepper
½ t. paprika
¼ c. flour
½ c. butter

1. Cut potatoes in quarters, lengthwise.
2. Mix butter, salt, garlic, cheese, pepper, paprika, and flour in large bowl.
3. Roll potatoes in mix.
4. Arrange potatoes peeled side down in baking dish.
5. Bake 375 degrees for 45 min. Turn half-way through.

CORRECTION:

In the October 20 issue of the *Dordt Diamond*, the front page story about "Korean" nuclear testing should have specified that the action had been taken by North Korean. The Diamond wishes to apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Time card guidelines

A few guidelines to follow when filling out your time cards, from Dordt's Payroll Coordinator Lois Van De Griend:

- Round your hours worked. Your times are checked and double-checked, and figuring out the hours from 7:38 a.m. to 1:43 p.m. greatly complicates the process. Rounding to the nearest fifteen minutes avoids all kinds of issues. If you come in at 3:41, write 3:45.
- Write the date of the first day of the week that you work. This lessens time required for entering hours into the database.
- Write as neatly and clearly as possible.
- Don't forget to get your adviser's signature. Your time card can't be processed without it.
- Consider using direct deposit for your checks. You won't lose your check, and you don't have to worry about cashing it in time either. Not only is this a great benefit for students, but it also saves Comptroller Michael Van Surksun from signing at least a few of those 800 student payroll checks.
- Turn in your time card by the second business day of each month.

Questions or Comments?

Send your responses and opinion to

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3 November 2006

Are we saturated with “CRC”?

Andrea Dykshoorn
Editor

In the fall of 2003, I stepped onto the grounds of Dordt College—the “larger world,” according to the recruitment propaganda at the time. Since then, I have been bombarded by “CRC”. In keeping with the holistic Reformed worldview, creation, fall, redemption and consummation have worked their way into every class, chapel, and lecture held on campus.

This is how it should be, you might say. I don’t claim to disagree with the Reformed worldview. But is there a point where we find that we’ve had just too much CRC?

On Tuesday, October 31, Jim Skillen gave the Reformation Day lecture in the BJ Haan auditorium. In his talk, he continually referred to Reformed theology and Kuyperian sphere sovereignty. I respect Skillen very much; I’ve read several articles by the President of Center for Public Justice, and I know he has valuable insights about Christians and our

responsibility in our world today.

But several people I spoke to were disappointed with the lecture. Could it be that we are saturated with the CRC, to a point where we simply cannot absorb or grow from any more “creation-fall-redemption-consummation” jargon?

I grew up in the CRC, and I value the theological foundations that the Reformed faith has given me. My worldview is based on the writings of Calvin, Kuyper, Dooyeweerd and the like. But here at Dordt, it seems like sometimes Calvinist jargon becomes a sort of default button—language that we can pull out when we find ourselves confronting a difficult question or issue, something that we use to gloss over reality.

‘CRC saturation’ concerns me—again, not because I disagree with the Reformed faith, but because sometimes the only way to truly discover what we believe is by seeing ourselves as others see us. And by others, I don’t mean fellow Reformed believers.

When I think about the experiences that have had the greatest impact on my

faith, there is an interesting common denominator. In each case, the person who most challenged me to think about what I believe did not do so by quoting Calvin, Kuyper or Dooyeweerd.

During my freshman year at Dordt, I had the opportunity to attend the National Association of Evangelicals Student Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. We listened to countless Christian speakers working in prominent positions in the American government and media. But the only speaker that I really remember—the only one who truly challenged me to think about what I believe—was not Reformed, or even Christian; he was Jewish. His powerful lecture gave us a small picture of how Christians appear to the rest of the world, and he challenged us to carefully consider ourselves as others see us.

When I spent a semester in the Middle East, my conversations with Muslims, Jews, and Orthodox Christians taught me more about ‘my square inch’ in the world than any of Kuyper’s writings or any lectures I have attended.

Dordt College claims to help students step into a larger world. But if this is true, shouldn’t we promote a broader worldview by bringing to campus people with different backgrounds or even religious views than our own? Granted, Anago has sought to do some of this—but perhaps Dordt should pursue a more active role in promoting understanding between Reformed Christians and the rest of the world.

Dordt has an opportunity to promote understanding right here on campus with the search for a commencement speaker. The college is looking for nominees who came from a Reformed background. But maybe we should look not for someone who is like us, but someone who knows what we, as Reformed Christians, are like—someone who can tell us how we appear to the rest of the world.

Instead of another creation-fall-redemption-consummation lecture, perhaps what we really need is a reality check.

Reformation conference refreshes attendants

Jacob Kroeze
Staff Writer

The refreshments offered to pastors, students and others were not limited to the coffee and donuts on the second day of the Reformation conference held in the science building lecture hall this past Saturday, Oct. 28.

Dr. Derek Thomas, a native of Wales, spoke on the theme “The Reformation: Was it a Mistake.” Thomas—professor of systematic and practical theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson Mississippi—spoke about John Calvin, his life, and his work on the subjects

of the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit and Justification.

Although he was suffering from “Iowa allergies,” Professor Thomas spoke very knowledgably on Calvin’s work about the Holy Spirit in *The Institutes*. “Just scratching the surface” of the topic, Thomas explained that the Spirit’s work is not separate from any part of life, but is especially obvious in sanctification. The Spirit works through both mortification, the putting to death of sin, and vivification, bringing to bear the fruits of the Spirit in life.

Professor Thomas also pointed out the different views on the Holy Spirit be-

tween the western and eastern churches as well as between Zwingli, Luther, Calvin, and the Roman Catholic Church on the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Thomas pointed out Calvin’s qualms in dealing with the Nicene Creed, explaining “God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God” to lean toward ontological subordination rather than economic subordination.

Thomas also pointed out Calvin’s explanation of the internal testimony of the Spirit, a “precious truth” from Calvin that the Spirit provides truth and leads to truth in Scripture.

Dr. Derek Thomas first opened the

Bible when he purchased a children’s version from a country store in Wales as an 18 year old. He immediately realized that this book was different than any other, and now sees this as the Holy Spirit’s work.

As he was not raised in a Christian home, when he walked into a meeting of university students singing and praising Christ, he felt as though he had come home.

Those who came to the conference were treated to door prizes as well as the promise of a compact disc of this year’s lectures by Dr. Derek Thomas, in addition to a refreshing look at the reformation.

Skillen continued from page 1

tune with one another” even shown by the fact that “people that are religious are praying for different things.” Skillen points out that there’s only one, true problem: “human beings [who are] disobedient to God in all spheres of life.” Such disobedience leads to questions in dealing with a topic of Neil Ferguson’s new book, “The War on the World:” the issue of the west facing future domination by the East. Will such a “descent in the West” lead us toward a “dark, deep demise”—of humans resorting to obtaining whatever they can by whatever means possible?

Skillen continued his thought-provoking presentation, raising the point that “none of us is better off if half of the world’s people don’t even get to develop their talents. Skillen said “we are one people in one world called to serve God in one way.” Yet he went on to present a seeming paradox—showing that that sense of oneness “doesn’t mean we can look for one solution to the world’s problems.” Christians have the calling not to

develop destructively but to “live normatively—in obedience to God.” Thus, all of the different directions and dimensions of globalization are part of human development that can/must be used by God’s glory.

Closing with the evening’s reformation theme, Skillen ended the night with a bit of a trick up his sleeve, in “changing up” the traditional Reformational challenge. Rather than solely calling Christians to be reformers, he called us back to the humbling fact that “reforming can only take place by the Great Reformer” Himself. And this can only be done if “we recognize that out of all our efforts [through which we bring] forth our faith, we’re often carrying forward the very same false ideas about life [that we’re fighting against].” Until the fullness of Christ’s restoration of the creation is carried out in creation, much of our reforming may truly have to be a “reforming of constant weeping.”

For more information on Jim Skillen or on The Center for Public Justice, go to www.cpjustice.org



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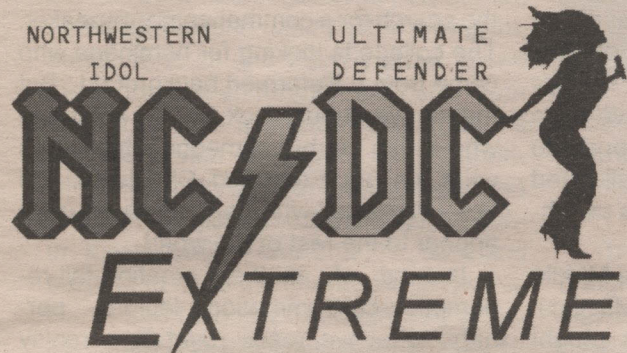
Are you ready for NC/ DC?

Grace Venhuizen

Guest Writer

"Welcome! I'm Ryan Seacrest and we're here to-night to find the next big singing sensation on...NC/DC Extreme?"

So it may not have the same ring to it as "American Idol," but it is the next best thing in the cornfields of Iowa. NC/DC Extreme is a two-week singing rivalry between Dordt and Northwestern students to find, by popular viewer vote, the most talented voice. That voice may not receive a recording contract, but it will win a prize of \$500.



The Student Activities Committee (SAC) has organized the event this year to be held between the two campuses. NC/DC is organized to be a series of three competitions. According to Craig Van Drunen, SAC co-leader, over 20 Dordt students tried out for a spot in the first competition to be held on Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. in the Defender Grille area. Ten of the 20 were chosen to compete in the all-Dordt preliminaries.

These 10 singers are freshmen Troy Ellens and Jon Ayee; sophomores Bethany Kooiman and Jill Vande Vegte; juniors Chris Natelborg, Jonathon Shaffstall, Heather Boer and Rebekah Oudman; and seniors Brad Redeker and Joelle Riezebos.

Van Drunen wants to remind everyone that there will be free popcorn and cotton candy, so "come early for a good seat." Viewer participation is critical at the preliminaries because Dordt students will be deciding which four singers will be sent to represent Dordt in the semi-finals against Northwestern.

The second competition is the semi-finals held on Nov. 11 at 10 p.m. in the BJ Haan auditorium. Dordt's four semifinalists chosen by its students and Northwestern's semifinalists chosen by its students will each be given a chance to sing one song. They will be critiqued

by two judges, one from each college, and students will again be given the chance to vote for their favorite performers.

Students will vote online for their favorite two performers from each school. The performers will be decided by popular vote but the singers will not know who has won until the day of the final competition.

The third and final competition will be held on Nov. 18 at 10 pm in Northwestern's Bultman Center. The last two singers from each school will again sing one song and be critiqued by judges. But instead of online voting, students will be voting live and the winner will be announced immediately.

This is the 3rd annual NC/DC competition between Dordt and Northwestern. Dordt remains undefeated in the past two years producing winners Justin Vande Kerk and Cassandra Lokker. Craig Van Drunen emphasizes that "it is crucial" for Dordt students to be present at the last performance as it will be decided by a live vote.

Don't let Northwestern steal Dordt's NC/DC legacy. About 1,000 students are estimated to attend the show. Be one of them – support Dordt's finest voices and vote for your favorite.

Seacrest out.

Monday morning coffee club brightens students' mornings

Alli Hagey

Guest Writer

If you are anything like me, the idea of waking up for class on Monday morning leaves a bitter taste in your mouth. Mondays are by far the worst morning of the week – there's just something about facing yet another full week of classes, homework and tests that can cause anyone to fear the dreaded alarm clock in those "wee" hours of the morning.

Luckily for us bed heads, there is now a more inspiring reason to get up on Monday mornings besides that impending lecture on a less-than-inspiring topic. The Monday Morning Coffee Club, started by Eric Vermeer and Nick Brouwer, offers a caffeinated start to those dire, unwelcome early morning classes. They serve coffee in the Eckardt Lounge from 7:45-8:55, allowing students to grab their cup o' joe and be on time for those 8:00 and 9:00 classes.

The coffee is served from a French press, producing

a richer, stronger coffee as opposed to a traditional drip-brew machine. The French press consists of a cylindrical jug with a lid and plunger that acts as a filter. Coffee is brewed by putting the water and coffee together and allowing it to brew for a few minutes before using the plunger to separate the coffee at the bottom. Since the grounds are in contact with the brewing water, it allows the coffee to capture a richer taste rather than the bitter taste that is common with a drip pot. The self-heated style of the French press also eliminates the chance of burning the coffee as a drip-pot or percolator would. The club also offers tea, along with various roasts of coffee and a variety of flavored creamers and sugar.

The Monday Morning Coffee Club provides coffee for faculty and students as an incentive to start the week off right. "It's a good way to start off your day by being alert and being to class on time. It's a great thing to do with friends and can provide a way to hold each other accountable," Vermeer says. As of now, the coffee is served on Monday mornings only, but if interest increas-



Mary Masselink and Heidi Bouma

Maggie Ehler

es, it is possible the coffee would be served on other mornings as well. Now that there is a more enticing reason to haul out of bed at the start of the week, hopefully that bitter taste previously left from the thought of an early morning can be replaced by fresh, gourmet coffee on the way to class.

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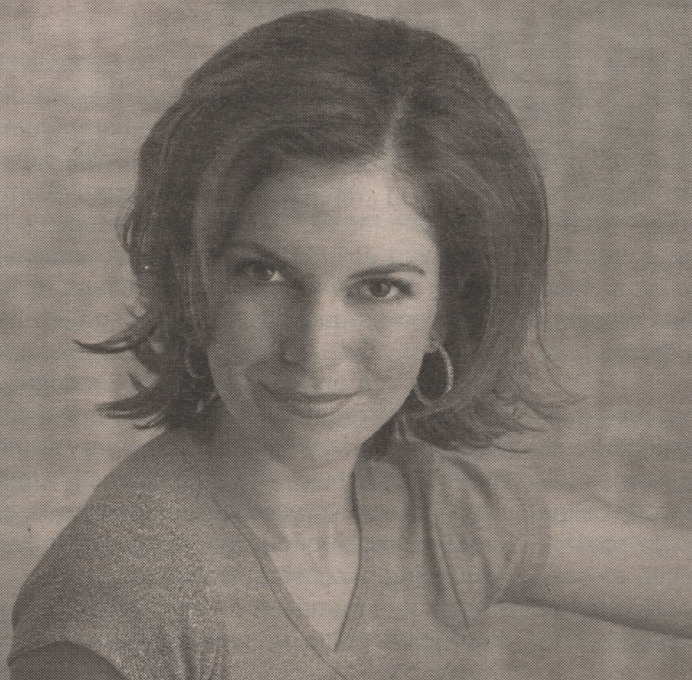
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Nigeria bears third jet crash in a single year

Chris O'Neill
Guest Writer

A Boeing 737 crashed just one minute after takeoff over Nigeria's capital city of Abuja last Sunday during a violent storm. This was the third Nigerian Airliner to crash in less than a year.

Despite initial conflicting reports, ABC News correspondents have confirmed that among the 104 people on board, only six survived—and these were taken to the hospital in critical condition.

Rescue workers sorted through piles of debris in search of survivors while federal officials assessed the scene after Nigeria's president, Olusegun Obasanjo, ordered an immediate investigation regarding the cause of the crash. So far there have been no reports indicating any relation to terrorism, as many have concluded

that the cause of the crash was due to bad weather conditions.

The aftermath revealed that the 737 had crashed only two miles from the runway, with wreckage scattered over an area the size of a football field.

Identified among the deceased victims was Muhammadu Maccido, the spiritual leader of Nigeria's Sunni Muslims as well as the Sultan of Sokoto—the airliner's destination point—a city about 500 miles northwest of Abuja. Maccido's death was announced publicly over the radio, and his body was transported to an airport in Sokoto, where thousands of people gathered to pay their respects. Maccido was immediately buried, in accordance with Islamic custom, and the Sokoto state government issued six days of mourning.

As part of his office, Maccido directed Nigeria's National Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, which dealt

with issues including policies of Muslim fasts.

Representative for the Sokoto state government Mustapha Shehu said that Maccido's son, Senator Muhammed Maccido, and Abdulrahman Shehu Shagari, son of former Nigerian President Shehu Shagari, were also on board and officially confirmed dead about six hours after the crash when the rest of the bodies had been recovered.

Spokesman for Mr. Obasanjo, Abilola Oloko, said that the President was "deeply and profoundly shocked and saddened ... he offers his condolences to all Nigerians, especially family, friends and associates of those who may have been on board."

This disaster has prompted President Obasanjo to intensify his policy, which was put into effect following last year's fatal crashes, ensuring frequent maintenance checks of all commercial aircraft and strict regulations for airport security.

TRAVEL GRANTS FOR SENIORS

This past year Dordt's Programs in Christian Vocation project provided full or partial support to twenty students for seminary and graduate school visits and to many more students to pursue career exploration opportunities. For example: Seven students were awarded travel grants to visit seminaries; thirteen students received travel grants to visit graduate schools; fifteen students were awarded partial funding to attend the L'Abri Fellowship Conference in Rochester, Minnesota; and nine students were awarded travel and registration grants to attend the Faith and International Development Conference at Calvin College in February.

The PCV project here at Dordt, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., once again wants to encourage those interested in attending graduate school by subsidizing up to two exploratory visits in their senior year to universities of their choosing. These travel grants are for up to \$250 each. To apply you need to have the endorsement of one of your professors and to let Professor John Kok know by email of your intentions prior to your visit. Similar travel grants are available for pre-seminary students. Students may also solicit these grant funds for other projects that relate primarily to the exploration and cultivation of vocational reflection. Contact Dr. Kok for details.

Group sings for senior citizens on Sundays

Sarah Groneck
Guest Writer

Psalm 100:1 says, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord," and that is exactly what Dordt students do on Sundays at a local nursing home.

Every Sunday afternoon, a group of Dordt students drive to Royale Meadows, a nursing home at Sioux Center Community Hospital, to sing to the senior citizens who reside there.

It is an informal gathering where students are given a chance to worship the Lord and spend a little time with the elderly.

Linda Van Wyk, a junior at Dordt, coordinates the outing. She says that the group has been meeting for at least seven years, and she has been attending since she was a freshman. "I like this program because it's a great opportunity to serve in Sioux Center," she said. "The residents love hearing and singing songs they love, and they really seem to enjoy the students' presence."

Once the group is dropped off at the facility, the students distribute traditional hymnals and choose their first hymn. They then walk to the first dining room where residents are munching on their supper. The students encircle the residents and sing to them as they eat. The hymns are chosen on a whim; students call out song numbers in the hymnals as they feel led. The hymns range from "Jesus Loves Me" to "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee."

Many residents enjoy simply listening to the words, while other residents like to sing out their praises to their Heavenly Father. The students visit a total of three dining rooms over the course of the hour and sing to about twenty residents in each room.

The students truly enjoy the experience. "I love the singing and seeing smiles on the residents' faces," Rachel Vanderaa, a sophomore, commented.

Freshman Justin Struik says that he tries to go every Sunday: "I only miss it when I have to. The old people really enjoy it. It is really special to be with them, especially when they sing the songs from memory."

Approximately 15 to 25 students participate on average every Sunday. According to Van Wyk, the group is "up from this time last year when there were often 10 or fewer people in attendance." They are, however, looking to welcome in more singers. No singing talent is required; they must come only with a heart for the Lord and for helping others. Students will find that it is a moving and beneficial experience.

Cartoon by Nate Gibson



Is your dating relationship a healthy one?

Dordt and Northwestern Colleges are joining together to hold a discussion...

November 14 @ 9:00pm at Northwestern College

November 16 @ 7:30pm at Dordt College

The Dordt and Northwestern College senior class social work students are teaming together for their Social Work with Communities and Organizations class: Social Work 386. The students were to develop a senior class project in which the students are in full control. The Senior Class Project is to be developed throughout the fall semester. This year students are working with Rachel Valentine, the Safe Campus Project Coordinator in an effort to raise awareness to students and communities of healthy dating relationships in both the Dordt and Northwestern College communities. Two panel discussions are to be held later in the semester discussing issues of healthy dating relationships and the choice of singleness.

Check out the flyers posted for more information

"Arsenic and Old Lace" captures crowds

Alvin Shim
Staff Writer

During the last weeks of October, students could be heard discussing Dordt College's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. "It's about, I'm not sure... some old ladies who, like, kill a bunch of guys and... whatever, but it looks pretty funny." My roommates and I, in need of retreat from Halo and Western Civilization, attended the dress rehearsal for the zero-dollars cost

The set was clear of any characters, but the show had begun. The play started well after the scheduled 7:30, allowing the audience to sit and visually crawl 'round the window seat, through the cellar door and up the rich staircase, looking as if it smelled of rich mahogany. The chandelier hung down against the staircase and tied the composition of the room together. It was totally Feng Shui, I'm sure and brought to mind the chandelier in Donnie Darko and I thought to myself, "What supernatural catastrophes will be manipulated in this room?"

In the first scene, Justine Moelker and her make-up and costume team created Aunt Abby. She sits to tea with her nephew Teddy, played by Jonathan Shaffstall again showing outstanding energy and consistency with the neurotic figures he tends to play. He's got something of a Ben Stiller thing going on. Andrew Tacoma and Paul Krygsman come in as Officer Brophy and Officer Klein and, together as a team of whacky, somewhat slacker cops, they establish the theme that Aunt Abby and Aunt Martha (Amanda Nyman) are compassionate and selfless.



Elbert Bakker

Morimer Brewster (Dan Fynaardt) is forced to listen to Officer O'Hara (Dan Den Boer) pitch his script idea while Jonathan Brewster (Marcel Wassink) and Dr. Einstein (Andrew Voss) connive in the background.

The reverend (Zach Eggebeen)'s daughter, Elaine (Kendra Triemstra) comes in and is soon followed by another nephew of the aunts, Mortimer Brewster (Dan Fynaardt). Thus they have a love story going on, a secondary role to the murder teams of Aunt Abby and Martha vs. Jonathan Brewster and Dr. Einstein.

A key scene is one that's not unlike the episode of *The Simpsons* when Lisa is convinced that she'll grow up and become stupid like Homer and Bart because of the Simpson gene. Mortimer finds out that his aunts are extremely pro-euthanasia... somewhat... and that his brother Jonathan is back in town with Dr. Einstein (creepily and well played by Marcel Wassink and Andrew Voss, again props to costume and makeup). Mortimer

also factors realizes that his other brother Teddy thinks himself to be President Roosevelt. Mortimer concludes that he, himself, will probably go insane soon.

The insane play is written by Joseph Kesselring. Corpses (Ryan VanderWel and Matt Turner) are mixed up, demands are shouted and plans are ruined. The insanities all come together and flow extremely well, but the main conflict is from Mortimer who somewhat acts as the audience's reaction to it all. Nothing in the play is what it seems to be, but it's not an M. Night Shyamalan movie; the characters are revealed to be fantastic and unbelievable, yet colorful... and alive. What I mean is this: the ultra-kind aunts, though killers, are still ultra kind. Elaine is still a woman proud of her nice legs, and

with a history in the choir loft, though she is the reverend's daughter... Teddy thinks he's Roosevelt... his insanity works to the benefit of the play. Officer O'Hara (Dan Den Boer) is ready to be free from his 12 years on the police force to become a playwright. (O'Hara is, by the way, totally a reminder of Kenny from the movie Garden State). Jonathan and Dr. Einstein are renegade criminals from around the world. And Mortimer has his salvation when he realizes that he is not a blood Brewster, his salvation and catharsis exemplified in the simple shout of joy: "I'm a bastard!"

The play, well received by the community and the visitors from Parent's Week, drew large gasps and laughs (mostly by Teddy and Dr. Einstein) and each consecutive performance brought a smoother product. Though the first dress rehearsal was solid, the last Saturday night's showing was noticeably more polished and skillful.

I've thought about why this play was as funny as it was. I can imagine Joseph Kesselring sitting at the fireplace twirling a pipe in his fingers and saying, "...but here's the twist... the aunts, like, kill people!" It is a play of irregularities and parallels; Mortimer and Dr. Einstein both play the voice of reason and conscience to the aunts and Jonathan.

The play implies that the audience sees their own imperfections in these characters in a "Catcher in the Rye-esque" way, that we convince ourselves we are somebody beyond our titles and assumptions. From the play and the reactions of the audience around me, I chuckle still.

David Burgess appears for NISO at Dordt College

Jamin Hubner
Staff Writer

This year's Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra, directed by Henry Duitman, is featuring one of today's most accomplished and experienced guitarists. David Burgess will be making music in the B.J. Haan Auditorium this Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

David won top honors in many international music competitions like the Ponce International Competition in Mexico City, the Guitar '81 Competition in Toronto and the 31st International Music Competition in Munich. He began studying guitar at the Estudio de Arte Guitarristico in Mexico City with the pre-eminent Argentine guitarist, Manuel Lopez Ramos. David later earned a Diploma di Merito while receiving a full scholarship at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy. After earning his B.A. in music at the University of Washington and becoming guitar instructor at both the University of Washington and the Cornish Institute of the Arts in Seattle, he was selected as the first recipient of the Andres Segovia Fellowship. As an orchestral soloist, he

performed with the American Chamber Orchestra at Kennedy Center, the St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra, the Philharmonia Virtuosi and many other prominent orchestras throughout the U.S. Currently residing in New York City, David has also performed in Town Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall and at Lincoln Center.

I had a chance to interview David to get some details on his career. He's played in the region before, like Dordt College and Sioux City, though much of his work takes place around the world and particularly much of Brazil. When I asked him about how he likes traveling, he said he likes it but it's a "mixed blessing" that wears on a person after a while. He has gigs in Spain and China in the near future. In fact, he's pretty much booked up until 2008! I asked him what was some of the best advice he could give to any guitar player that's mastering their skills. He replied, "Make playing on guitar as easy as possible. Make it so it doesn't strain your muscles. Just try to relax so your muscles can work efficiently." What's most fascinating is that he's writing a book about each individual muscle in the human hand and what they're do-

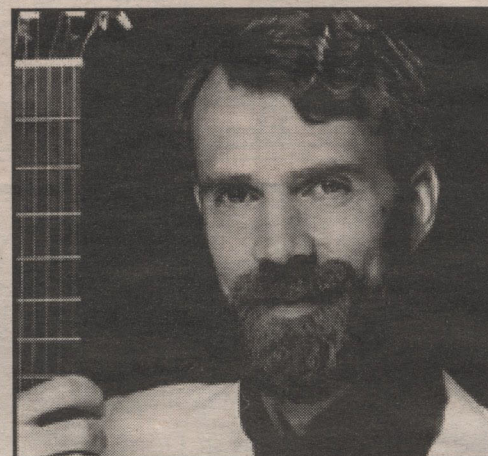


Photo courtesy of DENIS

Guest guitar player comes to Dordt.

ing when a person plays guitar. Finally, I asked him what one of the most embarrassing moments in his career was. He chuckled and said without hesitation, "One time my foot fell asleep on stage more than it had ever before...I got up to walk out and my leg buckled from the knee down and so I just stood there for a while until I was able to walk."

Be sure to see orchestral guitar master David Burgess in concert Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m.

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3 November 2006

Music review

Band: Mae
Album: Everglow
Reviewer: Lynette Andree

"Who is Mae?" is not as relevant of a question as "What is Mae?" Mae is not an angry female band, as the name might suggest; it is actually an all-male alternative band. The name actually stands for Multisensory Aesthetic Experience. I guess that is supposed to mean that the music is more 'real'? Either way, their new CD Everglow is something that is worthwhile listening to.

The CD starts out in a slightly different way than usual—it sounds like a mock book-on-tape with the whole "when you hear this sound, turn the page" (to the CD booklet). The CD booklet is something that can be appreciated along with the music—if you are going to listen to Mae, just buy the CD. It will be a well spent \$20.

The music is a nice, healthy mix of Yellowcard and Snow Patrol (which I recommend as well). Mae has a good variety of songs that are faster and more upbeat, and songs that are slower. The lead vocalist, Dave Elkins, has a voice similar to



photo credit

**Take out your music machine;
Mae's CD Everglow is worth a listen.**

that of the lead vocalist in Snow Patrol—mellow, but with a huge range. Mae is not a band that sings only of the horrible things that happen in life, but rather about life—the fragility and the hope that comes with living and loving.

If you are looking for something new to listen to, I would highly recommend Mae. If you're not hooked yet, at least check out the website www.whatismae.com or www.theeverglow.com to get a better idea of the band and their music.

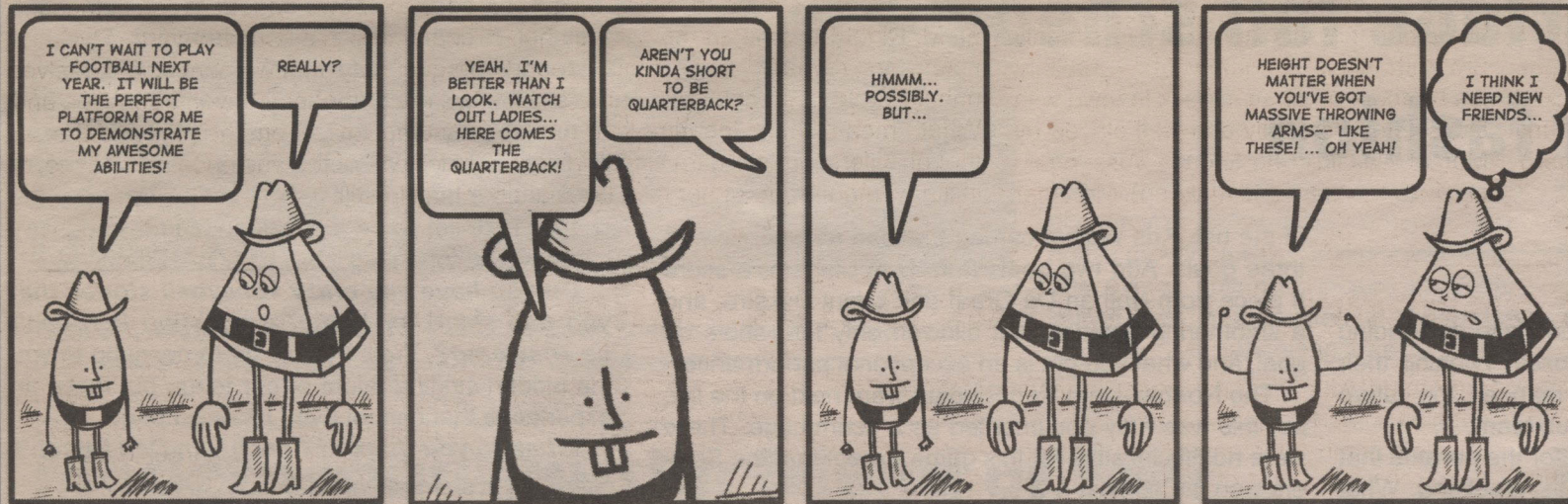
The Cable Guy Puzzler

Last Saturday, cable repairman Jim Carey made five visits to different area homes, one to the Nixon family, to either repair system problems or install new Noncomcast cable service. The appointments were at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 and 2:00 p.m., with each family living on a different Summerset street. Given the schedule below, you should be able to determine Jim's Saturday: the family he visited, where they live, and the service he performed during each appointment.

- Neither the family who had no TV connection nor the family whose internet connection was down is the Pearsons.
- Jim's appointment with the Morris family was two hours before his trip to the home on School Ave.
- One hour after restoring telephone service in one home, Jim was at the Pearson residence.
- Neither the family who was having TV problems nor the family who had Noncomcast installed is the family who lives on Elm St.
- The Jensions aren't the family on School Ave.
- The 9:00 appointment wasn't the one on Valley Rd.
- Jim's next appointment after the Hansons was to the family on Airport Way, who weren't the ones whose internet service was out.
- The problem at the home on Church Blvd. wasn't with the internet.
- The family who had cable installed Saturday isn't the Jensions.
- Two hours after restoring TV service at one address, Jim was at the home on Church Blvd.
- The faulty modem Jim replaced wasn't at the Morris residence.

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Dordt soccer kicks it into overdrive

Josh Dykstra
Staff Writer

The Dordt College men's and women's soccer teams kicked into overdrive as they headed down the playoff road. The men's team received an automatic berth by finishing third in the conference standings with a conference record of 8-4. They received the #6 seed and played #3 Dakota Wesleyan on Oct. 31. Seedings are based upon longo points and take into account conference as well as non-conference games.

The Dordt men were hoping for a match-up against #2 seed Northwestern in the semi-finals. However, a 1-0 loss on Oct. 31 at the hands of Dakota Wesleyan crushed Dordt's playoff run. According to senior Brett Van Andel, "There was intensity, high pressure and lots of shot opportunities throughout the game, but we failed to come through."

The Defenders would have to play #2 Northwestern

in Hastings, Neb. if they had won on Tuesday. Other schools that made it to the regional tournament include Hastings, #4 Morningside and #5 Dana. The winner of the tourney will travel to nationals in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Despite the loss, Van Andel is positive about the team's efforts. "It was a great season, with a great group of guys who enjoyed time spent together."

The Defender women also received an automatic berth by finishing fourth in the standings with a 7-5 conference record. They are seeded #4 and played #5 Hastings at home on Wednesday, Nov. 1. The Lady Defenders were victorious, winning with a score

of 3-0 on goals by Suzanne Clark, Abbie Soodsma, and Lindsay Baker. Dordt will now play #1 seed Morningside, the host of the Regional final four. The other side of the bracket features #2 Midland Lutheran, #3 Northwestern and #6 Briar Cliff. The women's magic number is now two to make to Nationals in Olathe, Kan.



From L-R: Josh Marcus, Sean Coon, Mike Oppeneer, Brett VanAndel, Bryan Burgers, Chad Nibbelink, Steve Shannon

Sowers conclude fall schedule in dominating fashion

Kyle Van Wyk
Staff Writer

The Dordt Sowers have a full head of steam heading into the spring season of club lacrosse. Winning their last two contests in a convincing manner, the future looks bright for the Dordt College club team.

The Sowers put on quite a show for the parents that traveled to Sioux Center for Parent's Weekend. What the home crowd saw was a 11-0 drubbing of the University of South Dakota. Dordt's leading scorer came in the form of Jake Van Dam who put four scores in the back

of the net. Kris Walhof carried the load as well, tallying three goals. Add two goals from Dan Slagers, a score a piece from Nathan De Graaf and Grant Dykstra, and a smothering defense that allowed only four shots on goal, and what you get is an exceptional performance.

The Northwestern Red Raiders were next on the list, but this was only documented as a scrimmage. There were no official stats for this game except that the Sowers won the contest 8-2.

The spring season will kick-off on March 3 in Faribault, Minn. as the Sowers will take on South Central Community College.

The end is in sight for Dordt cross country

Amanda Henke
Staff Writer

Competing in the 2006 GPAC Championship, the Dordt men's and women's cross-country teams were in Blair, Neb. last Saturday Oct. 28. The women completed a 5k course, while the men ran a total of 8k.

Nebraska Wesleyan swept the event, claiming the conference title in both races. The Wesleyan women took the first three spots, while the men had four runners in the top ten. All of the Prairie Wolf runners, men and women, finished in the top 20.

In the team standings, the Dordt women finished sixth with a total of 162 points, placing them seven points away from the fifth spot. This year's performance was a two-spot improvement from last year's eighth-place

finish. The men came in ninth overall out of the 12-team race, 13 points short of eighth place, finishing the same as last year.

Earning All-Conference honors were Jen Kempers, Tami Wieringa, and Joel De Haan. Kempers (19.21.39) and Wieringa (19.49.54) came through the chute 4th and 12th respectively. De Haan finished the 8k course as the seventh runner in the conference in a time of 26.54.72.

Both teams will travel to Sioux Falls, SD on Saturday, Nov. 4 to compete in the NAIA Region III championships.

Get to know 'em

Elliot DeWit
Staff Writer

Name: Lindsey Van Wyk
Age: 21
Grade: Senior
Sport: Volleyball
Number: 14
Position: Outside Hitter
Nickname: Linds, Z



Do you have a pre-game meal that you eat before every game? No, it's usually different every time, but if I had the choice it would definitely be cereal.

Do you have any superstitions? Our team plays a competitive game of ah-so-coh before every warm up, but that's just more of a tradition.

Who would you say has had the biggest influence on you with your volleyball career and why? I would have to say Coach Van Den Bosch. In my four years playing for him, I have learned so much about the game of volleyball, everything from skills to strategy to the psychological part of the game. He dedicates so much time to our team and can always manages to keep us on our toes. And my parents because from junior high until now, they have come to support me in every game they possibly could.

What's your greatest sports memory? In the regional volleyball tournament last year we upset National American in five games by coming back to win the last three games.

Are you excited for playoff volleyball action? I'm probably more excited this year than ever before because our team is still getting better. We have the chance to upset some really good teams, and every game will be tough, so it will be a lot of fun.

Do you have any crazy volleyball stories that you can share, or is that a question that can't be answered? Well, I would try to describe to you the hidden singing talent of our team, but that's an experience that cannot even be described.

What do you think of Coach Van Den Bosch's haircut? It's classic and famous.



The Dordt women's cross-country team poses in front of Lake Michigan after a recent meet.